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COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
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Agenda item 3 (b)

FOLLOW-UP TO THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: REVIEW OF RELEVANT UNITED NATIONS PLANS AND PROGRAMMES OF ACTION PERTAINING TO THE SITUATION OF SOCIAL GROUPS

Costa Rica, Cuba, Jamaica, Mongolia, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Poland and Sudan: draft resolution

The Commission for Social Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Children with disabilities

The Economic and Social Council,

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[1] and other international human rights instruments, which proclaim that the rights therein should be ensured equally for all individuals without discrimination,

Also recalling the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[2] in particular article 23 thereof, which requires special measures to ensure the rights of children with disabilities, and establishes the standards and

[1] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

[2] General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex.

parameters for recognizing and responding to the special needs and protection of children with mental and/or physical disabilities,

Taking note of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons[3] and the Standard Rules for the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities,[4] as well as the Declaration on the Rights of Mentally Retarded Persons[5] and the Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons,[6]

Also taking note of the various other resolutions passed by the General Assembly related to persons with disabilities, including its resolution 46/119 of 17 December 1991 on the protection of persons with mental illness and the improvement of mental health care,

Noting the convening of the Global Workshop on Children with Disabilities in Developing Countries at Washington, D.C., from 3 to 7 February 1997,

Convinced that disability is not inability and that it is critically important to take a positive view of abilities as the basis of planning for persons with disabilities, in particular children with disabilities,

1. Welcomes the report of the Special Rapporteur on Disability on the implementation of the Standard Rules for the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities;[4]

2. Notes, with concern, the growing incidence of disability in children, either of a physical or mental nature or both, as a consequence of wars, civil strife, mines, natural and man-made disasters, violence, poverty, disease and other conditions that destroy the quality of life;

3. Recognizes the need to further address the special needs of children with disabilities;

4. Encourages Governments to promote and protect the rights, special needs and welfare of children with disabilities through, inter alia, the development or strengthening of relevant legislation, and to provide adequate budgetary allocations to implement such legislation;

5. Invites Governments to consider conducting awareness-raising activities, where appropriate with the cooperation and assistance of the United Nations Children's Fund and other relevant United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations, especially of the disabled, with a view

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[3] A/37/351/Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1, annex, sect. VIII.

[4] General Assembly resolution 48/96, annex.

[5] General Assembly resolution 3447 (XXX).

[6] General Assembly resolution 2856 (XXVI).

to developing sensitivity to children with disabilities and combating and overcoming social prejudice and discrimination directed against them;

6. Encourages further technical, educational and economic cooperation among States, in coordination with the United Nations Children's Fund, other relevant United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations, towards the development of human resources by nurturing the talents and potentials of children with disabilities, the development and dissemination of appropriate technologies and know-how, and the development of common standards for the national evaluation of childhood disability, with due regard for the situation of poor or developing countries;

7. Recommends to Governments, United Nations bodies and agencies concerned and relevant non-governmental organizations to establish data banks on childhood disability, which should include information on the causes, types and frequencies of disability, national legislation and programmes, including support measures, and the results of studies or researches and surveys, if any, on the subject;

8. Urges Governments to provide free access to education for children with disabilities, to integrate disability issues within the regular education curriculum and to mainstream disabled children in the school system;

9. Also urges Governments to provide vocational preparatory training appropriate for children with disabilities;

10. Requests the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to continue its programme activities aimed at the integration of children and youth with disabilities into mainstream education, in line with the Salamanca Declaration adopted at the World Conference on Special Needs Education: Access and Quality, Salamanca, Spain, June 1994;

11. Also requests the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to extend appropriate assistance to Governments in designing and setting up programmes to encourage the creative, artistic and intellectual potential of children with disabilities, and through its regional offices, to conduct seminars and workshops to provide appropriate training in those fields to teachers, parents, social workers and others concerned;

12. Calls upon Governments to encourage the participation of children with disabilities in recreation activities and sports events, such as the Special Olympics;

13. Requests relevant United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations to establish indicators to facilitate the monitoring of the implementation of the Standard Rules as they apply to children with disabilities;

14. Emphasizes the right of children with disabilities to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standards of physical, psychological and mental health, and urges Governments to guarantee this through free access to health services and the adoption of holistic approaches towards the total well-being of disabled children, which should include:

(a) Services for prevention, education/training programmes, early detection, comprehensive treatment and community-based rehabilitation programmes, including rehabilitation care through home visits;

(b) Strategies that protect children at highest risk, including refugee, displaced or migrant children, children living in settings of continued violence and its immediate aftermath, children living in disaster areas, and children living on the streets and in squatter colonies;

(c) Priority consideration for the provision of effective mental health services that are integrated within all forms of health care, that meet local needs and that provide prevention strategies, including prenatal and perinatal care, immunization, optimal nutrition, day care, child safety measures, school-based programmes on family life and appropriate treatment of common childhood neuropsychiatric disorders. Since schools are the principal social institutions for furthering the cognitive and emotional development of children, teachers should be trained to recognize signs and symptoms of mental disabilities, to manage problems in the classroom, and to refer children that require more assistance to appropriate mental health services;

(d) Provision of free supportive and mobility devices/equipment;

(e) Support systems for families as primary caretakers, including financial, psychological and community support systems, to enable families to attend to the special needs of children with physical and mental disabilities;

15. Decides to consult with international organizations of persons with disabilities and specialized agencies, in accordance with rules 71 and 76 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, during the thirty-sixth session of the Commission on Social Development, to be held in 1998, on how to improve the application of the Standard Rules so that it fully addresses the special needs of children with disabilities, and requests that the recommendations and/or agreed conclusions emanating from the consultation be submitted to the General Assembly for adoption at its fifty-third session, through the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1998;

16. Requests the Secretary-General, for the purposes of the above-mentioned consultation within the framework of the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development, under the theme "Promoting social integration and participation of all people, including disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and persons", to make a compilation of the provisions of existing conventions, resolutions and other resource material with respect to the promotion and protection of the rights, special needs and welfare of

children with disabilities, for submission to the Commission on Social Development at its thirty-sixth session;

17. Encourages Governments to contribute to the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability specifically for projects to benefit children with disabilities;

18. Requests the Special Rapporteur on Disability to pay special attention to the situation of children with disabilities, and to establish close working relations with the Committee on the Rights of the Child for monitoring article 23 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child[2] and the Standard Rules in relation to children with disabilities, and to include in his next report his views, observations and recommendations thereon.